

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application with Group I, claims 1-8 having been elected in response to the restriction requirement. In this response, claims 1-4, 7 and 8 have been amended. Claims 9-20 have been cancelled without prejudice to their subsequent prosecution in any continuing application or disclaimer of the proprietary rights set forth therein. New claims 21-24 have been added. No new subject matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

II. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In numbered paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,373,969 to Takemura ("Takemura"). The rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the following recitation:

wherein said means for giving said ink suction nozzle access to the ink discharge port includes a portion of said plug extending inside said ink suction nozzle.

(Emphasis added). Therefore, in the instant invention, the means for giving the suction nozzle access to the ink discharge port includes a portion 10B that fits inside the suction nozzle 21 as depicted in Figure 5.

Takemura, however, does not teach or suggest an access means that includes a portion that fits inside a suction nozzle or device. Instead, as depicted in Figure 2, Takemura teaches a content taking out tube 50 that is provided by an external device and is fitted into tubular opening 7 in order to push the cap-engaging member 9 into contact with bottom portion 19 of the

tubular opening 7. Col. 4, lines 25-32. Moving the cap-engaging member 9 into contact with bottom portion 19 allows the content in containing chamber 23 to be taken out and used by the device. *See* col. 4, lines 33-34. Therefore, Takemura fails to disclose a means for giving a device access to the ink discharge port that "includes a portion of said plug extending inside said ink suction nozzle."

Independent claim 8 has been amended to further clarify the claimed sequence for manufacturing the ink cartridge. The claim was amended to affirmatively state, *inter alia*, that "after filling said ink container body with said stencil printing ink" an inner plug is mounted on the ink discharge port. (Emphasis added). In contrast, Takemura teaches a cap-engaging tubular member 9 that is mounted on a container body 1 before the container is filled. Col. 4, lines 6-13, Fig. 1. Figure 1 shows the device in its initial filling position. Referring to Figure 1, noting that the cap engaging tubular member 9 includes a flange portion 11, a land portion 13 and an engagement claw 15, col. 3, lines 33-50, it is clear that the cap-engaging tubular member 9 is mounted before the container 1 is filled. Therefore, Takemura does not disclose a method where an inner plug is mounted on the ink discharge port after the ink container body is filled with stencil printing ink.

Furthermore, in the instant invention, the ink chamber 5 is filled with ink through the ink charge port 2 before the inner plug 10 is mounted on the ink charge port 2. Once mounted, ink is discharged to the ink pump 20 through the discharge port 12 of inner plug 10. *See* Page 18, lines 1-15. Therefore, use of the inner plug 10 results in the size of the ink discharge port being smaller than the ink charge port. In contrast, the cap-engaging member 9 of Takemura is mounted on the ink container body 1 during both charging and discharging of ink. *See* col. 3, lines 42-50; col. 4, lines 35-33. Consequently, since ink flows through the cap-engaging member

9 during both charging and discharging of the container body 1, the size of the ink charge point and the ink discharge port is the same. This is clearly different from the instant invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 8 patentably distinguish over Takemura and are therefore allowable. Furthermore, claims 2-7 that depend from claim 1 are allowable therewith.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

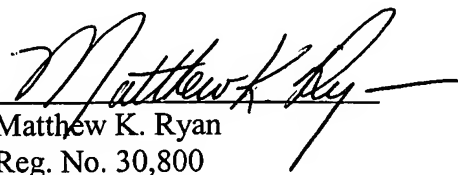
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and an early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

A fee of \$1,050.00 is deemed to be required for the additional claims presented herein and the two (2) month extension of time for filing this amendment. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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